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## GENERAL NOTES.

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*Thorvald Nicolai Thiele*.—Dr. T. N. THIELE, emeritus professor of astronomy, and formerly director of the Observatory of Copenhagen, died on September 26, 1910, at the age of seventy-two years. THIELE was a student of D'ARREST, and in 1860 accompanied him to Spain in order to observe the total solar eclipse of that year. Dr. THIELE was interested in some of the practical application of mathematics and made a special study of the subject of insurance, of the theory of observations, and of interpolation. He also made contributions to the problem of three bodies and to our knowledge of double-star orbits.

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*Felipe Valle*.—Mr. F. VALLE, director of the National Observatory of Mexico, at Tacubaya, died in the early part of September, 1910. During recent years the work of the observatory has been given over largely to work on the astrographic charts. Mr. VALLE has been a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific since its foundation in 1889.

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*Notes from "Science."*—Dr. E. C. PICKERING, director of Harvard College Observatory, announces that a new star, whose approximate position is R. A.  $17^{\text{h}} 32^{\text{m}} 15^{\text{s}}$ , Dec. —  $27^{\circ} 32'.3$  (1875), was discovered by Mrs. FLEMING in the constellation *Sagittarius* on October 1, 1910. It appears on sixteen photographs taken at Arequipa with the eight-inch Bache and the one-inch Cooke telescopes, between March 21, 1910, and June 10, 1910. The magnitude has been estimated as varying from 7.8 to 8.6 between these dates. The spectrum is faint, but shows the bright hydrogen lines  $H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma$ ,  $H\delta$ ,  $H\epsilon$ ,  $H\zeta$ , and  $H\eta$ , with a trace of  $H\gamma$  as dark on the edge of greater wave-length of the bright line  $H\gamma$ . The star does not appear on seventeen photographs taken between July 23, 1889, and October 7, 1909, although most of them show stars fainter than the twelfth magnitude and one plate shows stars of the fifteenth magnitude or fainter. An observation by LEON CAMPBELL on October 3,

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1910, with the 24-inch reflector confirms the presence of this object and gives its magnitude as about 10.5.

An association for the promotion of astronomy has been formed in India. It is to be known as the Astronomical Society of India, and has its headquarters at Calcutta.

Dr. E. C. PICKERING announces that a new star, whose approximate position is R. A.  $16^{\text{h}} 31^{\text{m}} 4^{\text{s}}$ , Dec.  $-52^{\circ} 10'.6$  (1875), was discovered by Mrs. FLEMING in the constellation *Va*, on October 13, 1910. It appears on twenty-one photographs taken at Arequipa between April 4 and August 3, 1910. The magnitude has been estimated as varying from 6.0 to 10.0 between these dates. The spectrum is quite faint, but shows, on three plates, the bright lines, 5007,  $\text{H}\beta$ , 4670,  $\text{H}\gamma$ ,  $\text{H}\delta$ ,  $\text{H}\epsilon$ , and  $\text{H}\zeta$ , one of the plates showing also the bright line  $\text{H}\eta$ . Apparently this object had passed into a nebulous condition before its spectrum was photographed. The star does not appear on forty-four photographs taken between August 20, 1889, and March 19, 1910, although almost all of them show stars fainter than the twelfth magnitude, and two plates show stars as faint as the fifteenth magnitude.

The honorary degree of doctor of philosophy was conferred upon Dr. GEORGE E. HALE by the University of Berlin at its recent centenary celebration.

According to a cablegram to the daily papers, a ceremony in celebration of the completion of the Vatican Observatory under the direction of Father HAGAN was held in the papal apartment on November 17th. A speech was made by Cardinal MAFFI, president of the observatory, to which the Pope replied, highly commending the work of Father HAGAN.

Professor W. S. EICHELBERGER assumed the directorship of the U. S. Nautical Almanac Office on November 2d, succeeding Professor MILTON UPDEGRAFF.